GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:256
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
CHILDREN BORN BLIND
RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA;TEJVEER SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey about the children born blind;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for prevention of diseases causing blindness in the infants before birth?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 256 FOR 6.12.2000

National Survey on Blindness (1986-89) indicated that 0.8% of all blind eyes were due to congenital causes resulting in children born blind. State-wise prevalence is Annexed.

Steps taken by the Government to reduce the incidence of blindness in new born include: -

(1) Adequate antenatal care during pregnancy;

(2) Prophylactic supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets to prevent anemia;

(3) Referral of high risk cases;

(4) Vaccination against Rubella;

(5) Early detection and treatment of retinopathy of pre-maturity.

ANNEXURE

Percentage Distribution of Blind Eyes due to Congenital Causes in Major States of India

National Survey 1986-89

S.No.	State	%
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.92
2	Assam	2.04
3	Bihar	1.55
4	Gujarat	0.23
5	Haryana	1.00
6	Himachal Pradesh	0.59
7	Jammu & Kashmir	0.74
8	Karnataka	0.93
9	Kerala	1.12
10	Madhya Pradesh	0.97
11	Maharashtra	0.90
12	Orissa	0.00
13	Punjab	0.00
14	Rajasthan	0.43
15	Tamilnadu	0.58
16	Uttar Pradesh	0.70
17	West Bengal	0.00
18	Delhi	1.46
INDIA		0.80